

demand of diesel in the country before giving permission in this regard; and

(c) if so, what will be the quantum of additional demand of diesel, alongwith the details of arrangements proposed to be made for its supply?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (c) With the commissioning of additional refining capacity in the country during the year 1999-2000, country has become self sufficient to meet the demand of diesel. It has, therefore, been decided to permit use of diesel as fuel for power generation. Additional demand of diesel for this purpose has not yet been finalised.

Effect of Adulterated Petrol

1619. SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE:

SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN:

Will the Minister of PETROLUEM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that petrol is mixed with solvent Naptha, raffinate and slop and this adulteration can damage automobile engine, besides contributing to environmental pollution;

(b) whether it is a fact that such adulterated petrol is sold in many States, particularly in Gujarat;

(c) whether oil companies have conducted raids on those outlests; and

(d) if so, the cases of adulteration detected and the action taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (d) To check the adulteration in automobile fuels viz Motor Spirit (MS) and High Speed Diesel (HSD) by adulterants like Naptha, Solvent, Raffinate and Slop, the

Government has promulgated on 5th June, 2000 the Solvent, Raffinate and Slop (Acquisition, Sale, Storage and Prevention of Use in Automobiles) Order 2000 and the Naptha (Acquisition, Sale, Storage and Prevention of Use in Automobiles) Order, 2000 under the provisions of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

Further, the oil marketing companies carry out regular/surprise checks of retail outlets, to prevent various malpractices including adulteration. In addition, special drives are launched by the oil companies both on their own and also under direction of Government from time to time to check malpractices. Further, to prevent adulteration various steps like blue dyeing of kerosene (Public Distribution System), furfural doping filter paper test, checking of retail outlets by mobile laboratories, etc. are undertaken by the oil companies.

The necessary action is taken against the erring dealers as per the dealership agreement of the oil marketing companies which provides termination of dealership if the quality of the products is tampered with.

Demand for Enhancement of Kerosene Quota by Kerala

1620. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

SHRI J. CHITHARANJIAN:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that the State Government of Kerala has been demanding for the enhancement of the quota of allotment of kerosene to the State from the present 32348 KL to at least 40,000 KL for a long time; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's decision thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Central Government has increased the annual allocation of